September 28th Work Session Return to Learn Updates

In attendance: Dr. Dan Brigman, Jane Bumgarner, Pat Edwards, Kathey Aldridge, Ruth Shirley, John Greene, Dennis Brown, Cindy Brigman, Deb Gragg (Avery County Health Department Representative,) Diane Creek (Toe River Health District Health Department,) Dawn Hicks, Megan King, Lisa Haas, Brittany Beam, Chris Campbell

Work Session Minutes:

Mr. Greene called to order the work session. Dr. Brigman reminded everyone that under the new state law, local school boards in North Carolina will have to vote at least once a month on masks mandates for the schools. Dr. Brigman opened the work session with current student/staff COVID-19 data (the data table displayed both positive COVID-19 cases of students/staff in our school system and the number of quarantines for students/staff.) In the previous meeting, the board decided they would be data driven when discussing the required monthly mask mandate. He compared the current data to the data from the previous board meeting. The numbers of student/staff positive cases were down, as well as the number of quarantines. Dr. Brigman stated lots of hard work went into collecting student/staff data. Mrs. Brigman, along with the school nurses, pulled all their information together for the special board meeting. A spread sheet was displayed for all to see on a screen. He went over the current data (collected Monday September 28th) from the spread sheet Mrs. Brigman put together. There is a decline in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the schools (8 total student positives and 2 positive staff members.) Everything, including quarantines (57 total students and 1 staff member) seem to be on a downward trend. Administrators went classroom to classroom on Monday to count the numbers of students wearing masks compared to the number not wearing masks. Data gathered from all classrooms on Monday September 28th, shows approximately 18.4% of students are wearing masks in our school district. 81.6 % of students in the district were not wearing masks. The schools have been very proactive to isolate with quarantines.

The quarantine process was discussed in detail with Ms. Diane Creek from the Toe River Health District. She provided different examples/scenarios in which students would be quarantined. With each scenario, she discussed the number of days it would take to get students back into the schools. See the information discussed below:

1- A person who tests positive for Covid-19 will quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset or from the test date if asymptomatic. Quarantine will end at midnight on day 10 as long as the person is symptom free for 24 hours without the help of medication.

2- Fully Vaccinated (2 weeks after second dose for Moderna/Pfizer, 2 weeks past single dose J&J) with Contact from a person who tests positive for COVID -19:

1. Direct contact with a positive:
    a. Wear a mask
    b. Continue with normal activities if symptom free.
    c. Get tested for Covid from day 3 to day 5 from date of exposure
    d. If Covid test is negative, then continue normal activities but wear a mask until day 14.
    e. If symptoms begin, get tested.
    f. If the test is positive, treat it as a positive Covid case.

3- Household contact to a positive:

1. Contact must quarantine the 10 days of their positive person's quarantine.
2. At the end of the initial 10 day quarantine the direct contact quarantines another 7 or 10 days.
    a. Direct contact can quarantine 7 days if they are symptom free and get tested on day 5 through 7 (really day 15-17) and the test result is negative.
    b. Direct contact must quarantine 10 days in addition to initial 10 days, for a total of 20 days, if they refuse to be tested.

c. If the direct contact develops symptoms, they need to get a PCR test.

4- Direct contact to a positive:

1. Direct contact must be quarantined for 10 days.
   a. Direct contact can quarantine 7 days if they are symptom free and get tested on day 5 through 7 and the test result is negative.
   b. Direct contact must quarantine 10 days if they refuse to be tested.
   c. If direct contact develops symptoms they need to get a PCR test

Ms. Creek continued by saying the Avery Health Department only uses PCR test results to allow students to return to school (due to the high number of false negatives with the rapid test.) The PCR test results are coming back much quicker than earlier in the year. Some PCR test results are coming in as fast as two days. Quarantine times will be a little shorter if the PCR turn around remains this fast. Ms. Gragg made it known there is free PCR testing at "The Dive In" Pool Complex for anyone who wants or needs tested. Ms. Creek said the rapid testing coming into the public schools will be wonderful. Avery Schools will be getting these rapid tests. We do not have a specific date, but it is in the works. Hopefully, rapid tests in schools will catch some students who are positive before they get into the classrooms where COVID-19 could spread to others.

Mr. Greene asked Ms. Creek if she knew of any scientific/reviewed medical studies that reported results that masks worked to stop the spread of COVID-19. Ms. Creek said she didn't know of any. Mr. Greene had been looking for this scientific information for a long time. He urged the board members to follow the science. Science is honest. If we can't find science, then let's look at the data. 81.6% of students in the school district on Monday were not wearing masks. Majority of parents are sending their children to school without a mask. He asked if we going to mask the kids whose parents have chosen to allow their students to come to school with no mask. What is best for our students here in Avery? He acknowledged the political heat is on, and he recognizes that, but they need to do what's right for our children. He wanted to know if it was okay to make the vast majority do something they are opposed to. Again, he asked if there were any scientific/medical reviews that show this will help? He requested that the board members must use common sense in this mask situation.

Ms. Creek replied that she wears a mask consistently. She is around sick people all the time (it's part of her job), she doesn't work from home, and she has yet to get COVID-19.

Ms. Bumgarner mentioned the 8 positive students and the 57 students in quarantine from the data sheet. The discussion led to the fact that the 57 quarantines include students who were exposed at school, students who were exposed at home, and children with COVID-19 like symptoms (could be illnesses other than COVID-19 - Examples: RSV, sinus infection, strep, etc.) Ms. Hicks, a school nurse, said she sees more home exposures than anything else in her schools. She further discussed how managing positive cases at the high school is so hard due to all the locations they visit in one school day. Riverside Elementary on the other hand is an environment that can be controlled much easier. In Ms. Hick's schools, most school exposures are happening at lunch time in the cafeteria. Ms. Aldridge suggested that maybe the high school could work on lunch/cafeteria protocols to try to work on lessening the chances of exposures.

Mr. Greene reminded everyone to look at the current data that was before them. He asked the other members how will our decision affect all these students in our school system. He urged everyone to remember that they agreed to be data driven. Are we going to do different than what we said we were going to do? Ms. Edwards mentioned she was uncomfortable looking at data from just one week. Ms. Bumgarner agreed that she wanted to see the past data also. The concern is healthy students are at home on quarantine, and this is putting parents at home as well.

Ms. Creek stated there are four ways that are taken into consideration to keep students out of quarantine including: 1) fully vaccinated students/staff (will wear a mask and on day five get a COVID test), 2) masks are on both students when the one tests positive, 3) student or staff member has had COVID in the last 90 days and have proof from a medical lab test, and 4) an antibodies test that shows the student/staff member have strong numbers of antibodies. Ms. Hicks said at the high school, some of the students have learned they can get the vaccine and not to have to quarantine. Currently, some of the high school students are vaccinated and several others have the antibodies. Ms. Shirley stated she hates wearing a mask herself and hates the thoughts of putting students in them. However, the mask is something simple that could keep the students from being sent home. It also affects the parents' ability to work when they are at home with their children for quarantines.

Mr. Greene looked at the data again and stated 81.6% of students were not masked Monday at school. He believed the majority out there don't think masks are effective. This is Avery County, and you all are intelligent people. Ms. Bumgarner stated that she doesn't like sending healthy (non-symptomatic) kids home for five to ten days at a time. She wanted to do what it takes to keep healthy children in school. Many parents don't know what to do with their children during these quarantine times.
Mr. Greene said what we do know is this decision will affect every child. What about the detrimental parts of the mask wearing? Kids tugging at them all day long. Wearing the same mask repeatedly.

Dr. Brigman reminded the board we strongly recommend the masks already. It's a parent's responsibility if they feel there is a great risk to put that mask on their child. Ms. Edwards mentioned that last year when students were wearing masks there was hardly any flu. Ms. King said so far, she has only had one test positive this year for flu but several with RSV. She is seeing more normal sicknesses right now. Ms. Hicks and Ms. Creek mentioned the quarantine protocol has changed for the good since last year, and the quarantine time is less. Ms. Creek's problem with wearing masks is that students and parents will not do what they are medically told to do when wearing them. She doesn't want our teachers to become mask police which they would have to become if the masks are mandated. Mr. Greene said the parents should make this choice. If a parent feels there is great risk, mask up, and if others feel it's worth the risk, let them choose to not wear the mask. For the 81.6% who choose to do something different, let them make that choice. Parents know what's best. I would never go to my neighbor and force my parenting on their children. Why should we change in mid-stream when its working? Give parents the credit to make this decision for their kids.

Kathleen Watson attended the work session and was asked by a board member who she was. After a brief introduction she explained her reasons for attending the board work session.

Before the work session ended, due to the time, Ms. Brigman wanted bragged on all the school nurses and thanked them for coming to the work session. The nurses have been doing double time to get things done since COVID-19 came into our community.
Dr. Brigman thanked Ms. Creek and Ms. Gragg for all they do to help keep our students and staff safe.

Avery County Board of Education

Special Meeting Minutes *September 28, 2021*

The Board of Education will hold its special monthly meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 at Avery County Schools Central Services.

CALL TO ORDER John Greene called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ETHICS STATEMENT
"Board members are reminded that it is our duty to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest as we handle the work of this Board. Does any member of the Board know of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before us at this meeting? If so, please state them for the record. If, during the course of the meeting, you become aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest, please bring the matter to the attention of the chair. It will then be your duty to abstain from participating in discussion on the matter and from voting on the matter."

INVOCATION Kathey Aldridge gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
Approval of September 28, 2021 Open and Closed Agenda (action) (motion to approve: Kathey Aldridge; second: Pat Edwards, Unanimous)
Approval of June 15, 2021 Open and Closed Minutes (action) (motion to approve: Pat Edwards; second: Ruth Shirley, Unanimous)
Approval of June 29, 2021 Open and Closed Minutes (action) (motion to approve: Kathey Aldridge; second: Jane Bumgarner, Unanimous)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Brigman started his report by saying thank you to the board members for their tremendous support in the passing of his mother. He stated that life is precious, be kind to each other, and love one another. He thanked everyone once again for all the thoughts and prayers. In his report, he went over the important dates that are coming up soon on the school calendar (the list of dates can be found in section B titled "Leadership for Innovation" Number 1.)

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENTS
1) Baker Ledford- Mr. Ledford is a student from Avery County High School. He was present to request the board hire another band teacher for the students of Avery County. He wanted other students to be able to express themselves in creative ways. He requested another job posting go up soon to try to find another band director.

Mr. Dennis Brown replied it was already on his Human Resource to do list. The Band Director posting will go up again this month. Ms. Ruth told Mr. Baker the band did an excellent job at the football game Friday and thanked Mr. Ledford for bringing his request to the meeting.

2) Dustin Trice – Mr. Trice is a parent of children in our school system. He believes that the mask mandate for the students should be up to each individual parent.

3) Michelle Pope- Ms. Pope is a mother of children in our school system. She attended the meeting to be a voice for a student wide mask mandate. She stated its about keeping the kids safe.

4) John Driggers- Mr. Driggers is a parent of children in our school system. Mr. Driggers said we need to acknowledge the seriousness of COVID-19 and require all children to wear masks.

5) Kathleen Watson- Ms. Watson is a current resident of Avery County. She was here to represent ten families who could not be there to attend the meeting. A mask should be a choice for the families of Avery County.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

A) Globally Competitive Students

1) Field Trips
   a) Skills USA Leadership Workshop-ACHS Skills USA Club– Fayetteville, NC September 26th-28th (information) Approved in a previous poll.
   b) Beta Leadership Summit Conference- ACHS Beta Club-Concord, NC October 11th & 12th (information) Approved in a previous poll.

B) Leadership for Innovation

1) Important Dates: Dr. Brigman went over dates in his Superintendent Report
   a) October 12th-Regular Monthly Board Meeting
   b) October 18th-End of First Grading Period
   c) October 21st-Parent Conference Day (K-8) *Tentative* Regular School Day for ACHS
   d) November 9th-Regular Monthly Meeting of the ACBOE; 6:00 PM
   e) November 11th-No School, Veterans Day Holiday
   f) November 25th & 26th-Thanksgiving Holidays

2) Return to Learn Updates (action)

Dr. Brigman did a snapshot on where we have been as a school system thus far, considering the topic of the monthly status of face coverings in the schools.

August 10th, 2021, Regular Board Meeting (Action – Passed Unanimously)

As discussed during our work session this afternoon that included legal counsel, leadership from the local health department and this Board, local decisions are required regarding face coverings and other protocol for opening schools. One hot topic across the nation is the issue of face coverings and local Board expectations for our staff and students. Governor Cooper's recent decision to allow local Board control over the decision pertaining to face coverings allows local decisions regarding face coverings.

My recommendation to this Board is that we recommend wearing of masks, but they be "OPTIONAL" for all staff and students to allow parents to make this decision. Masks will continue to be required on all buses, and all school visitors will access our schools by appointment only, screened upon entry, and will be required to wear a mask. Finally, at indoor school events such as volleyball, we will ask that non-vaccinated spectators wear a mask, but this will be on the honor system.

We will continue to ensure the highest level of cleaning and disinfecting occurs on a regular basis in all schools, buses, and touched surfaces as implemented last year. We will continue to work in partnership with Mrs. Deb Gragg and our local health department to monitor health and safety issues in Avery County. We will also provide ongoing updates to this Board and our stakeholders regarding COVID-19 in Avery County.

August 31st, 2021, Regular Board Meeting – Action to Modify the 8/10 Action (Passed 3 to2)

Face shields and desk shields were added when using small group studies and one on one activities. Required face coverings for ALL staff was also implemented. (Passed by BOE 3 to 2)

This snapshot brought us up to today. In our work session, we looked at an overview of our school districts current data. He opened the floor for discussion. He stated that Avery County has a unique dynamic, and he maintains that we keep the current policy and continue to work with the local health department. He suggested the possibly of setting a threshold and if the COVID-19 number rise over the set threshold, then we can revisit the mask mandate and put masks on everyone if needed. We would have to decide what that threshold looks like.
Ms. Shirley talked about a sermon she heard at her church on Sunday. It was a sermon from the book of Mark on being a stumbling block or stepping stone. She pondered if masks are a stumbling block or a stepping stone to keep kids in school. Ms. Shirley stated that masks cannot be stumbling blocks. We cannot keep quarantining and taking healthy kids out of school. Healthy kids are going home because they have no mask on.
Dr. Brigman mentioned the threshold/ gate marker idea again. If the numbers get too high in positive cases or in quarantine of students, we can have a mask mandate. Ms. Shirley replied that masks help keep kids in school. The problem here is there are too many children on quarantine. This should not become political. It's a fact, people are dying from COVID-19. It's not a Republican or Democrat thing. She described it as a serving children thing. Ms. Shirley agreed that Dr. Brigman's threshold idea might be the ticket.
Ms. Edwards discussed how she personally hates wearing a mask, and she doesn't like putting masks on children either. She acknowledged she hears the parents who want masks to be their choice, and she hears the parents who want masks required to protect their own children/families. She hears the tragic healthcare stories at her church. She doesn't like the idea that COVID-19 affects every person in a different way. She said there is no winning for both sides with this controversial issue. There will always be a winner and there will always be a loser no matter what decision is made. She agreed with Ms. Shirley that this is not political. This is not a personal preference thing either. She is not picking a side. Her daughter teaches Pre-K and a child smiled for the first time after being there in her classroom for weeks. Her daughter smiled back but the child couldn't see the smile in return. It broke her daughter's heart, and it broke Ms. Edwards heart, too. She wants kids to be in school. It is what is best for them. It really bothers her that fifty-seven possibly healthy kids are sitting at home. She posed the scenario of, what if it was my granddaughter that had a heart condition and was in our schools right now. Whatever decision is made, it is only temporary. She suggested that the board needed to come together and show mercy and grace to each other, the way the Lord shows it to us. Ms. Aldridge also agreed this was not political to her. It was about her love for the kids of Avery County.
Ms. Bumgarner said COVID-19 for a child can be life changing or worse case, could be life ending. Like the other board members, she doesn't like wearing a mask. She doesn't like the fact that fifty-seven students are at home with packets, some of which will not catch up or recover from all the quarantine missed assignments. The students already have a gap from last year.
Ms. Bumgarner made a motion that all staff continue to wear masks and that effective October 6th, all students (K-12) will wear masks inside all school buildings during instructional times only. Along with this motion is a requirement that a representative from the central office, the principal, the school nurse, and a representative from the health department (when possible) will meet with each teacher and work with them to limit the time children will be in masks during the school day. This will also give parents a chance to talk to the principal and teachers about breaks during the school day.
Ms. Shirley stated we needed someone to work with the teachers to help them minimize mask wearing time for the students. Distancing could be used in classrooms if the spacing allows. She doesn't want the children to wear masks six hours a day.

Mr. Greene asked if we are going to renege after we made the previous choice to use data to drive our decisions.
Ms. Bumgarner said this motion is for the fifty-seven in quarantine.
Mr. Greene wanted it known he didn't agree with this decision and followed by saying we have turned a blind eye to the data we agreed to use. What about liberty for all and our basic rights? He asked his fellow board members, are we going to do something none of us believe in? If the numbers go up, we can always revisit it. We will not be keeping our word if we do this. We are better than that. We do not need to tell our parents what to do. The parents know the risk, allow them to make this choice. What we are currently doing is working. We need to work with the health department and focus in on the quarantines and how they are implemented. What about Dr. Brigman's suggestion of creating a threshold?

Ms. Shirley responded that if the motion failed, she has some threshold questions to ask. Discussion ensued about how a threshold could be managed and measured. Would it be based on COVID-19 positives? On quarantines? Would this be an "and situation" or an "or situation?" Mr. Greene said the threshold would allow us to look at each school individually, not as a whole. Several questions were asked. How will we get the data? How often will data be collected? The data changes so quickly from day to day.
Ms. Edwards stated that there is no guarantee that the numbers will stay down. We want our children in school. She explained she is getting many phone calls from parents who have no one to help when their children are in quarantine. The problem of healthy kids sitting at home remains.
Mr. Greene requested we give it a little time and watch the data before we dive into this decision. Ms. Bumgarner said fifty-seven is too many in quarantine. She stated the board needed to talk about quarantines.
Ms. Shirley mentioned revisiting the lunch setup to help quarantine numbers go down. Ms. Creek reaffirmed again that the majority of the contact quarantines are coming from lunchroom interactions. Ms. Shirley asked can we start there? Dr. Brigman offered suggestions as to making the lunchroom environment a safer place for students.
Mr. Greene stated he doesn't want our kids in masks. The teachers/administrators will have to become mask police if a mandate goes in. Surely, we can do something else without the broad-brush stroke.
Ms. Bumgarner said we need to move forward and reread her motion from the table. Ms. Aldridge suggested they were all intelligent adults that agreed it was about the children and their communities. We need a plan that can take care of all involved. We need to stand for the kids. We don't know any specifics about the fifty-seven in quarantine. I wish I had more info as to how the quarantine came about. How many did we, the schools, send home? How many were quarantined by the health department? Ms. Edwards commented it seems that each time we have a positive student, we have four to eight who get sent home from exposure. If one child got deathly sick from COVID-19 and ended up on a ventilator and I knew that I could have prevented it, I don't know I can live with that. Mr. Greene responded there is no data to prove the masks work. Ms. Edwards continued then we should error on the side of caution. It's always a win for children to be in the schools.
Ms. Shirley mentioned that we have lots of adults making this decision, but why didn't we include the students or the teachers in on this decision? Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Dellinger were present for the meeting, and she asked their opinion on social distancing in their schools. Both principals agreed they could tighten up on social distancing procedures to help stop the quarantines.
Mr. Greene said that we have a motion on the table. We need to either let it die and create a new motion, or we need to vote, and if it fails, we can move forward with another idea. The board members voted to accept the motion as is. Pat Edwards, Jane Bumgarner, and Ruth Shirley voted for the motion. Kathey Aldridge voted against the motion. Mr. Greene wanted it recorded that his vote would have been against this motion. The motion was approved.

(Motion to approve: Jane Bumgarner; Second: Ruth Shirley; Pat Edwards, Jane Bumgarner, Ruth Shirley voted for, Kathey Aldridge voted against. The motion passed 3 to 1)

Ms. Edwards requested we amend the original motion just a bit. She wants the motion to read that only grades 3 and up will be required to wear masks. Her response for this was that Kindergarten through second are your "learning to read grades." She said it was very important that this group sees the faces, lips moving, and can read facial expressions. All of this is needed for learning to speak clearly and read efficiently.

The amended motion is below.

All staff will continue to wear masks and that effective October 6th, face coverings will be required indoors for all students in grades 3 and higher and all staff during instructional hours only. Along with this motion is a requirement that a representative from the central office, the principal, the school nurse, and a representative from the health department will meet with each teacher and work with them to limit the time children will be in masks during the school day.

Mr. Greene asked if all the elementary grades could be exempt from the masks. Ms. Edwards commented that grades three to fifth cannot get vaccinated at this time. Mr. Greene stated that we are going to ask our schools to prevent an illness that they don't presently have right now? Or do we need to just add anything else to this motion with clear guidance as to why we are not looking at the data like we said we would. The motion was not changed, and the vote was cast. Ms. Edwards, Ms. Shirley, Ms. Bumgarner, and Ms. Aldridge all approved the amended motion.

(Motion to approve: Pat Edwards; second: Ruth Shirley; Unanimous)

C) 21st Century Systems

1) 2021-2022 Budget Resolution – Jeff Jaynes (action) (motion to approve: Kathey Aldridge; second: Jane Bumgarner, Unanimous)

Mr. Jaynes noted as it currently stands, we still have no state budget approved. He created a 2021-2022 budget using an estimation of what we believe we will receive this year. It will change once the actual budget gets released. In order to keep going forward, we would like to go ahead and approve the supporting budget resolution. A bonded booklet of information was given out to the board members with this information showing a broad look at the budget. It begins with a little over twenty-eight million dollars with the money distributed into six funds. On page four of this budget booklet, Mr. Jaynes has put funds into pie charts for everyone to quickly see where funds are being spent. He reminded everyone that last year's budget had a twenty-million-dollar construction project on it. If it looks like we are losing money, we are not. There is only 3.6 million dollars of that money left. The current Federal Budget is 2 million less than last year. It is less because federal budgets were not due until September 30th, 2021, and we have eighteen programs that are still waiting to be approved. Additional funding will be coming due to later timelines. Mr. Jaynes invited anyone who has questions about the budget information to come see him.

2) SRO Grant-Jeff Jaynes (information)

Currently we rely on grant money to help pay for some of our school resource officers. The School Safety Division has opened up an SRO grant for districts to apply. The grant requested is due October 6th. Right now, we have four assigned school resource officers in our school district. Mr. Jaynes told the history of how SRO's are funded. We pay one hundred percent of one officer from the At-Risk fund and the county pays one hundred percent of one officer from their funds. The other two were paid 2/3 from the SRO Grant and 1/3 from the county match. Without the grant, we can only pay for one and the county would have to cover the other three. Mr. Jaynes is working through the requirements of this grant. A requirement of the grant is to have a current memorandum of understanding in place with the local sheriff's department. Mr. Jaynes is working with Sheriff Frye to create this MOU. In the grant, we are requesting $100,000 to fund three SRO positions. One of the three requests would be to reimburse the county for the one they traditionally cover for us. If the grant is not renewed, then new rounds of funding would have to be found. Mr. Jaynes asked the board if it was okay to go forward with submitting this grant request. The consensus was "Yes" to move forward. He will bring the board the new MOU with the approvals from both parties once it is complete.

Continuation of OPEN SESSION (action)

Mr. Chris Campbell prepared a presentation to go over with the board members called, "The Fundamentals of Title IX." Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination of sex in federally funded education programs. It gives rights to victims of sexual or gender-based harassment, misconduct, and violence but also gives rights to the accused and states the accused are innocent until proven guilty. It can be very difficult to distinguish what is a Title IX situation and what is a regular disciplinary action situation. Anytime a situation arises, and you are uncertain if it is a Title IX situation, it is best to get the Title IX coordinator involved, and they can help determine if it is a true Title IX situation. Most Title IX cases arise in the high school/higher level settings. There is a process that must be followed when going through the Title IX process: 1) Report of harassment is filed 2) Report is shared with the Title IX coordinator. 3) If the complainant wants to file, Title IX investigates 4) Case transferred to the hearing officer 5) Hearing occurs 6) Appeal can be made (this step will involve the Board of Education members.) The Title IX coordinator is required to report to law enforcement when needed. The Title IX process is slower than what we are used to. A parent can contact law enforcement anytime they chose to do so. The board members requested that they be informed when a Title IX investigation has begun. They don't want the specifics, just the information that one is in the progress. Mr. Campbell said Dr. Brigman can give them the information that one has begun without releasing specific information. Ms. Edwards commented she was glad to see a chain on people work on this when the Title IX process is in involved. Dr. Brigman thanked Mr. Campbell for all the important information he delivered to everyone.

The Board will meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing information that is privileged, confidential or not a public record as Per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) students and personnel; and (a)(6) initial employment. (action) (motion to approve: Ruth Shirley; second: Jane Bumgarner; Unanimous)

CONSENT AGENDA (action) (motion to approve: Kathey Aldridge; second: Pat Edwards, Unanimous)

1) Employment
2) Contracts/Retirements/Resignations/Terminations/Information
3) Student Transfer Requests
4) Student Release Requests

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
It was requested that the overnight field trip policy needed to be reviewed. What is being done to protect children on these field trips from COVID-19 exposure?

INFORMATION ITEMS
1) Dr. Brigman wanted the board to join him on a walk-through of the high school renovations. He will work on finding a date for that.
2) Dr. Brigman will also work on finding a date to do the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the High School.

ADJOURNMENT (action) (motion to approve: Ruth Shirley; second: Kathey Aldridge, Unanimous)

Chair, John Greene

Secretary, Dr. Dan Brigman

Respectfully submitted:
Hannah Arnett

Hannah Arnett

Motion to Approve: Jane Bumgarner

Member Seconded: Kathey Aldridge

Date Approved: 11-9-21